

SEMI - ANNUAL REPORT¹

CRIME IN NORTH CAROLINA - 1997

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

October 1997

The number of Crime Index offenses reported by North Carolina law enforcement agencies during the first six months of 1997 increased 1 percent compared to the same period last year. Where suburban areas saw crime increase 2 percent, crime in rural areas of North Carolina remained unchanged.

The number of violent Index offenses (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) increased 6 percent statewide. Individually, murder went down 2 percent, rape went up 1 percent, robbery increased 12 percent and aggravated assault rose 4 percent.

Property crimes (burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft) as a group remained unchanged during the first 6 months of 1997. While burglary and larceny showed no change, motor vehicle theft rose 2 percent. Arson, a property crime not included with the other Index offenses, decreased 6 percent.

The number of juveniles under the age of 18 arrested for Crime Index offenses decreased 4 percent during the first 6 months of 1997 compared to a 3 percent increase in all arrests. Youths arrested under 18 for violent crime also decreased 4 percent, while all arrests increased 4 percent.

The number of North Carolina law enforcement officers assaulted decreased 1 percent. There were no officers killed during the first 6 months of 1997, compared to one that was killed in 1996.

TABLE 1 - CRIME INDEX BY POPULATION GROUP

Percent change January - June 1997 over 1996, offenses known to the police.

Population Groups and Areas ²	No. of Depts.	Total Index ³	Vio- lent	Prop- erty	Mur- der	Rape	Rob- bery	Agg. Assault	Bur- glary	Lar- ceny	MVT	Arson ³
Core Cities	14	+4	+10	+3	-18	+10	+16	+7	-2	+5	+2	-7
Suburban Cities	114	+1	+1	0	-30	-4	+1	+2	+8	-1	-1	0
Suburban Counties	32	-4	+3	-5	+2	-14	-1	+6	-1	-7	-6	-3
Suburban Areas	160	+2	+8	+1	-16	+2	+13	+6	0	+1	0	-5
Rural Centers	17	-2	0	-2	+83	+27	+7	-5	-6	-1	+8	+5
Rural Cities	152	-2	+1	-2	+120 ⁵	+2	+1	-1	-2	-3	+8	-5
Rural Counties	63	+3	+2	+3	+2	-6	+24	-1	+3	+3	+7	-9
Rural Areas	232	0	+1	0	+32	+2	+9	-2	0	-1	+7	-6
Other Agencies⁴	70	-12	-18	-12	NA	-58 ⁵	-50 ⁵	+1	-19	-12	+44	-39 ⁵
State Total	462	+1	+6	0	-2	+1	+12	+4	0	0	+2	-6

TABLE 2 - CRIME INDEX TRENDS

Percent change 1993 - 1997, each year over previous year, January - June.

Years	Total Index ³	Vio- lent	Prop- erty	Mur- der	Rape	Rob- bery	Agg. Assault	Bur- glary	Lar- ceny	MVT	Arson ³
1993/1994	+1	-2	+1	+1	-1	+5	0	-3	+2	+10	+24
1994/1995	+3	+1	+4	-16	-5	+1	+1	-1	+6	+4	-11
1995/1996	0	-6	+1	-6	+4	-7	-7	-3	+2	+12	+13
1996/1997	+1	+6	0	-2	+1	+12	+4	0	0	+2	-6

¹Statistics presented in this report are an initial indication of crime known to law enforcement in North Carolina for the first six months of 1997 and are based on the volume of crime reported by comparable months. Finalized figures will be available in the initial report entitled *Crime in North Carolina - 1997*.

²See back page for explanation of Population Groups and Areas.

³The number of reported arsons has not been included in the total Crime Index. See back page for offense definitions.

⁴Includes state law enforcement, campus police, state parks, airport police and ABC agencies.

⁵Totals for either current and/or previous year contain 16 or less offenses.

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TABLE 3 - CRIME INDEX BY TYPE

Percent change January - June 1997 over 1996, offenses known to police.

Offense	% Change	Offense	% Change
Murder	-2	Aggravated Assault	+4
Rape	+1	Larceny/Theft	0
Robbery	+12	Pocket-Picking	+37
Highways	+5	Purse-Snatching	0
Commercial House	+25	Shoplifting	0
Gas/Service Station	+41	From Motor Vehicles	+6
Convenience Store	+32	MV Parts & Accessories	-9
Residence	+23	Bicycles	-3
Bank	+5	From Buildings	-1
Miscellaneous	+2	Coin Machines	+9
		All Other	+1
Burglary	0	MV Theft	+2
Residence Total	-1	Automobiles	+1
Night	-3	Trucks/Buses	+5
Day	-1	Other Vehicles	+1
Unknown Time	0		
Non-Residence Total	+1	Arson	-6
Night	-5	Structural Property	-7
Day	-5	Mobile Property	+8
Unknown Time	+5	All Other (Crops, Timber)	-6

TABLE 4 - INDEX OFFENSE ARRESTS - ALL AGES

Percent change January - June 1997 over 1996, arrests made by police.

Area	Total Index ¹	Vio-lent	Prop-erty	Mur-der	Rape	Rob-bery	Agg. Assault	Bur-glary	Lar-ceny	MVT	Arson ¹
Suburban	+5	+1	+6	-6	+14	+5	+1	0	+8	+7	+18
Rural	+1	+10	-3	+14	-9	-2	+13	-3	-3	-2	+11
State Total	+3	+4	+3	+2	-12	+3	+5	-1	+4	+5	+15

TABLE 5 - INDEX OFFENSE ARRESTS - UNDER 18

Percent change January - June 1997 over 1996, arrests under 18 made by police.

Area	Total Index ¹	Vio-lent	Prop-erty	Mur-der	Rape	Rob-bery	Agg. Assault	Bur-glary	Lar-ceny	MVT	Arson ¹
Suburban	-1	-5	0	-45 ²	-23	+8	-8	-1	+2	-13	+31
Rural	-10	0	-11	-20 ²	+27 ²	-19	+8	-17	-7	-35	+21
State Total	-4	-4	-4	-39	-12	0	-4	-7	-1	-18	+28

TABLE 6 - LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSAULTED

Percent change January - June 1997 over 1996, officers assaulted in the line of duty.

Suburban Areas	Rural Areas	Other Agencies ³	State Total
-1	-3	+15	-1

TABLE 7 - LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED

Number feloniously killed while in the line of duty, January - June 1997 and 1996.

Year	Suburban Areas	Rural Areas	State Total
1996	0	1	1
1997	0	0	0

¹The number of reported arsons has not been included in the total Crime Index. See back page for offense definitions.²Totals for either current and/or previous year contain 16 or less arrests.³Includes state law enforcement, campus police, state parks, airport police and ABC agencies.

TABLE 8 - CRIME INDEX FOR SELECTED CITIES AND COUNTIES

Number of offenses reported to city police and county sheriff/county police, January - June 1996 and 1997.

City Total % Change	YR	Total Index	Vio- lent	Prop- erty	Mur- der	Rape	Rob- bery	Agg- Aslt.	Bur- glary	Lar- ceny	MVT	Arson¹
Asheville +8	96	2,291	254	2,037	4	12	82	156	425	1,441	171	2
	97	2,476	278	2,198	2	16	79	181	446	1,588	164	4
Cary -3	96	1,145	37	1,108	0	2	15	20	178	880	50	9
	97	1,114	38	1,076	0	2	13	23	179	833	64	8
Charlotte-Mecklenburg +2	96	25,033	4,110	20,923	36	158	1,102	2,814	4,818	14,257	1,848	239
	97	25,572	4,763	20,809	27	180	1,470	3,086	4,866	13,975	1,968	207
Durham +10	96	7,871	802	7,069	24	41	394	343	2,027	4,332	710	36
	97	8,641	1,006	7,635	18	47	550	391	1,940	4,709	986	18
Fayetteville +3	96	4,905	486	4,419	6	34	209	237	965	3,129	325	19
	97	5,059	441	4,618	3	33	271	134	1,019	3,223	376	40
Gastonia +22	96	2,729	369	2,360	5	11	126	227	624	1,639	97	30
	97	3,324	466	2,858	6	22	126	312	602	2,117	139	33
Goldsboro -12	96	2,128	297	1,831	3	16	95	183	346	1,386	99	4
	97	1,866	255	1,611	1	10	61	183	328	1,196	87	6
Greensboro -3	96	8,117	948	7,169	10	54	322	562	1,681	4,978	510	32
	97	7,861	920	6,941	14	48	369	489	1,342	5,099	500	40
Greenville 0	96	2,585	221	2,364	2	13	76	130	547	1,718	99	11
	97	2,578	236	2,342	7	15	92	122	581	1,673	88	6
High Point +10	96	3,476	422	3,054	5	22	137	258	880	1,940	234	26
	97	3,825	457	3,368	6	17	183	251	910	2,229	229	29
Jacksonville -10	96	1,342	153	1,189	3	10	39	101	217	920	52	4
	97	1,208	151	1,057	0	11	26	114	225	792	40	0
Raleigh +13	96	8,330	1,017	7,313	17	46	345	609	1,535	5,068	710	41
	97	9,448	1,212	8,236	13	49	355	795	1,681	5,887	668	62
Rocky Mount +9	96	2,414	273	2,141	5	9	118	141	560	1,479	102	20
	97	2,620	302	2,318	3	11	102	186	509	1,704	105	11
Wilmington -9	96	3,502	363	3,139	1	17	109	236	716	2,166	257	20
	97	3,183	329	2,854	6	12	136	175	653	1,935	266	8
Winston-Salem -1	96	8,798	1,117	7,681	18	60	416	623	1,804	4,993	884	91
	97	8,742	1,038	7,704	6	76	289	667	1,760	5,370	574	74
County Total % Change	YR	Total Index	Vio- lent	Prop- erty	Mur- der	Rape	Rob- bery	Agg- Aslt.	Bur- glary	Lar- ceny	MVT	Arson¹
Buncombe +4	96	1,170	149	1,021	3	12	13	121	378	565	78	10
	97	1,211	120	1,091	1	3	5	111	374	660	57	0
Cumberland -27	96	4,940	357	4,583	12	52	117	176	1,468	2,708	407	84
	97	3,610	360	3,250	8	25	96	231	1,107	1,953	190	60
Davidson +21	96	942	64	878	0	9	7	48	360	470	48	13
	97	1,143	96	1,047	0	6	12	78	392	583	72	4
Forsyth -2	96	1,872	207	1,665	0	11	17	179	411	1,172	82	47
	97	1,829	151	1,678	0	6	11	134	499	1,116	63	63
Gaston -8	96	1,221	167	1,054	6	11	20	130	410	595	49	23
	97	1,121	155	966	6	4	14	131	327	565	74	26
Guilford -11	96	1,838	167	1,671	1	15	16	135	500	1,111	60	14
	97	1,635	143	1,492	4	8	27	104	457	955	80	22
Randolph +3	96	1,027	76	951	2	5	9	60	289	611	51	1
	97	1,054	57	997	1	9	7	40	325	619	53	6
Robeson +2	96	806	107	699	5	4	8	90	384	276	39	6
	97	820	108	712	10	3	8	87	395	281	36	5
Rowan +9	96	735	79	656	0	10	11	58	226	393	37	7
	97	804	38	766	3	10	0	25	338	400	28	4
Wake +6	96	1,526	146	1,380	5	16	26	99	466	786	128	21
	97	1,617	153	1,464	4	18	33	98	512	842	110	19

¹The number of reported arsons has not been included in the total Crime Index.

North Carolina Population Groups and Areas

Core Cities: City law enforcement agencies with populations of 50,000 or more within a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

Suburban Cities: City law enforcement agencies within a MSA exclusive of the core cities.

Suburban Counties: Sheriff's departments within a MSA.

Suburban Areas: All law enforcement agencies within a MSA.

Rural Centers: City law enforcement agencies with populations of 10,000 or more outside a MSA.

Rural Cities: City law enforcement agencies outside a MSA exclusive of the rural centers.

Rural Counties: Sheriff's departments outside a MSA.

Rural Areas: All law enforcement agencies outside a MSA.

Index Offense Definitions

Index Crime includes the total number of murders, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies and motor vehicle thefts. While arson is considered an Index crime, the number of arsons is not included in the Crime Index tables.

Violent Crime includes the offenses of murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

Murder - The willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another.

Forcible Rape - The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Assaults or attempts to commit rape by force are also included.

Robbery - The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

Aggravated Assault - An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe bodily injury. This type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or other means likely to produce death or serious bodily harm. Includes attempted assaults.

Property Crime includes the offenses of burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft.

Burglary - The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. Includes attempted forcible entry.

Larceny - The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another.

Motor Vehicle Theft - The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.

Arson - Any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without the intent to defraud.

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